

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor



Margaret G. McHale
Chair

Ren Serey
Executive Director

**STATE OF MARYLAND
CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION
CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS**

1804 West Street, Suite 100, Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(410) 260-3460 Fax: (410) 974-5338
www.dnr.state.md.us/criticalarea/

December 16, 2014

Mr. Adam Assenza
Environmental Protection Assistant
Office of Environmental Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
U.S. Department of Transportation
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Rail Abandonment – Exemption from Conditions Governing Offers of Financial Assistance and Public Use

Dear Mr. Assenza:

We have reviewed the information submitted regarding the Petition for Exemption from Conditions Governing Offers of Financial Assistance and Public Use for the proposed rail abandonment of 14.57 miles of railroad in Somerset County from Milepost 1.2 near Kings Creek to Milepost 16.3 near Crisfield. The Critical Area Commission has no objections to this Exemption request.

We do request that, should any of the proposed work take place in the Critical Area, MTA coordinate with this office prior to development taking place.

Thank you again for providing information on this consistency report application. If you have any questions, please call me at (410) 260-3480.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charlotte Shearin", written over a horizontal line.

Charlotte Shearin
Natural Resources Planner
CS/jjd

cc: Mr. Gary Pusey, Somerset County Planning and Zoning
Mr. Clint Sterling, Somerset County Recreation and Parks